

The Government of Japan once again worked in partnership with the Government of Samoa through its National Health Services (NHS) in promoting improved health care and wellbeing of Samoans.

A handover ceremony was held on 3 August 2018 at Satupaitea Savaii, for the project entitled “The Project for the Reconstruction of Satupaitea District Hospital” in the presence of the Hon. Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, Cabinet Ministers, Members of the Parliament, Ambassador of Japan to Samoa, Ministry of Health and NHS officials as well as the residents of Satupaitea and its neighbouring districts.

The project’s funding were provided under Japan’s ongoing scheme of Japan’s Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP) which promised a grant of up to 119,119 USD (307,007.73 WST) for its implementations.

The Grant Contract was signed in November 2015, between the former Ambassador of Japan to Samoa and the Minister of Health, Hon. Tuitama Dr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama and witnessed by the Satupaitea Member of Parliament, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Labour and Public Enterprises, Hon. Lautafi Fio Selafi Purcell.

The old hospital that was built in the 1960s was greatly damaged by cyclones and other natural disasters over the years, with its former location closer to the sea shore even made it more prone to natural disasters.

The Government of Samoa therefore, decided to close in the mid-2000s with a plan to rebuild and this time, with a new location further inland.

The project includes rebuilding only of the Outpatient Clinic consisting of consulting, treatment, dispensary and the ambulance entrance bay.

The people from around the area have had to make the long trip to the main hospital at Tuasivi for more than ten years.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Samoa, H.E. Maugaoleatuolo Shinya Aoki, emphasized and reaffirmed in his speech his government’s commitment in the health sector through its ongoing GGP scheme.

“Japan’s support in the health sector is strong, one of the key priorities in our development partnership with Samoa, whereas we have and are always committed to play a vital role through our GGP programme. In addition, Japan has and will continue to promote health and wellbeing of the people of Samoa in both islands, Upolu and Savaii. And, trusting that our partnership with NHS will grow in reaching a Healthy Samoa.”

The new and improved outpatient clinic will benefit 10,000 population of the three districts namely Satupaitea, Palauli Le Falefa and Palauli East.

Not only, it will alleviate the problem of having to travel long distances to see a doctor or for a follow up care, but also, to allow for more timely and efficient health services.

Japan extended its GGP assistance to projects that only see to address basic human needs which include, health and medical care, water supply, basic education and environmental protection or disaster relief.

Since its inception in 1991, more than 170 projects have successfully completed that have benefitted several communities and have had impacted immensely on the lives of many Samoans.

